

Cecilia Akrisie Anim, CBE former president of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) 2015 – 2018



Impact Foundation Bangladesh visit 10 – 16 February 2020

I would first of all like to extend my sincere thanks to the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Foundation Trustees, RCN corporate staff and RCN members for their support and contributions towards my President's charity to make this project a success. In addition, I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to other contributors and supporters such as Care Awards UK, Impact UK and Impact Bangladesh.

The trip to Bangladesh in February of this year for the graduation of our sponsored student nurses Grace and Sabrina and the enrolment of future nurses was made possible with the assistance of 'Impact UK and the RCN Foundation staff. During the course of these first sponsored student nurses training program, we were regularly kept abreast of their progress. The visit was a resounding success and extremely rewarding.

The Journey

Following the preparations to acquire the necessary travelling documentations and regular contacts with 'Impact Bangladesh' regarding the in country visits, we set off from London Heathrow airport on the 9th February 2020 accompanied by Prof Kath Mc Court, Felicia Kwaku and Patrick Quinn. We arrived on the morning 10 February and were met by the Impact Bangladesh staff and were presented with flowers and driven to our hotel in the diplomatic quarter in Dhaka.



Cross-country trips were kindly facilitated and accompanied by Dr. Hasib Mahmud, CEO 'Impact Bangladesh.

Tuesday 11 February

Early morning start for a plane journey to Jeshore followed by a two hour car journey to Impact Masudul Haque Memorial Community Health Centre (IMCHC), Chuadanga, to visit 'Impact' projects including clinical services for eye surgery, correction of limb deformities which we were informed numbered up to five thousand occurrences per year across the Bangladesh. The clinic provided maternity and physiotherapy services.



Wednesday 12 February

Travelled to Mehepur by road to the Impact Nursing institute and were given a royal like welcome from being showered with flower petals by students and staff. We met the principal of the institute followed by a tour of the facilities, visited the library, computer resource room and in one of the classrooms the second year nursing students were being taught about effective communication with patients and the use of the correct language to meet their needs



We also met final year nursing students in the library preparing for their state exams on the 28 February and 4 March 2020. The institute is attached to the hospital so student nurses have a greater opportunity to interact with and care for patients at the onset of their training under supervision as part

of their placements in local hospitals. We spoke to the students about their training and they all expressed confidence in their training provision. We met the housekeeping staff and inspected the hostel and were amazed with the colorful bed linen and the cleanliness. In our opinion the school is adequately resourced in terms of provision and delivery.

During the afternoon, we had an opportunity to visit the local communities and were impressed with the innovative ways in which 'Impact Bangladesh' were providing health care and support to vulnerable communities for example 'mothers club and home gardens.



The Graduation

The graduation ceremony commenced at 7pm with a key note speech by myself and my team, we were entertained with cultural activities and dancing.

It was a great joy to meet Sabrina and Grace and presented them with their certificates, small gifts and latest issue of the nursing standard journal. We presented the final year students certificates followed by the enrolment of the new students, more cultural dancing. The event finished at 9pm and was a memorable occasion.



We also had trees planted to mark our visit to the nursing institute and a plaque honouring the RCN Foundation and President's charity support to the training of student nurses, which is a fitting legacy as the World Health Assembly, has designated 2020 the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. This was exciting and such a privilege to be recognized in this way.



13 February

Early start for a nine hour journey by car to Barisal to visit the 'Impact Jibon Tari floating hospital' which was the second highlight of our visit. This was another demonstrative example of how 'Impact Bangladesh' were providing and meeting community needs in a highly impactful way. We met qualified nurses from the nursing institute working in the hospital as well as other impact clinics centers and government hospitals. The mission of the institute in training nurses is a life changing venture which is serving and transforming communities.



On the Friday 14th February, we flew back to Dhaka fully accomplished after visiting the local government hospital and other places of interest

Sat 15th February

We were invited by the Trustees of 'Impact Bangladesh' for lunch at the Dhaka club to round off our visit. Sincere thanks to Dr Hasib and his team, my fellow travelers and sponsors. As a friend said to me "if I forget anyone charge it to my head not my heart".

Dr Hasib said " I express my sincere thanks to the RCN foundation members, 'Impact UK' and other supporters for their kindness in providing support for our nursing institute which in turn will serve the communities in Bangladesh "

Kind regards

Cecilia Akrisie Anim, CBE